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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-25, 33, and 34 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants AMEND claims 1, 7, 12, 13, and 33 and CANCEL claims 3, 26-32, and 35-38.

Applicants affirm the election of claims 1-25 and 33-35 without traverse. Applicants reserve the right to file a Divisional Application to pursue prosecution of non-elected claims 26-32 and 36-38.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-5, 8, 15-17, 22, 23, and 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims, and that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, and to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicants have amended claim 7 to clarify that the step of hot-press bonding and the pressing step are in addition to the previously recited hot-press bonding step in claim 1 and the previously recited pressing step in claim 4. Support for this amendment can be found in applicants' specification at pages 9-10 and 38-40 and originally filed claims 5, 6, and 8.

Applicants have amended claim 12 to clarify that the sealing assisting piece is disposed between the piezoelectric elements before the piezoelectric elements are mounted on the mounting substrate. Support for this amendment can be found in applicants' specification at pages 10-11.

Applicants have amended claim 13 to provide proper antecedent basis for the sheet.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 7 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Furukawa

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et al. (US 6,262,513). Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-217221. Claims 1, 2, 6, 9-14, 18-21, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa et al. in view of JP 7-176565. Claims 3 and 35 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1, 2, 6, 9-14, 18-21, 24, 25, 33, and 34, as amended by Applicant.

The features of allowable claim 3 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 over Furukawa et al. in view of JP 7-176565 is moot. Claims 2 and 4-25 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

The features of allowable claim 35 have been incorporated into independent claim 33. Accordingly, the rejections of claim 33 over Furukawa et al. and JP 2002-217221 are moot. Claim 34 depends from claim 33, and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 33 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Applicants

Joseph R. Keating
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett
Registration No. 46,710

KEATING & BENNETT LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 850
Tyson's Corner, VA 22102
Telephone: (703) 637-1480
Facsimile: (703) 637-1499